

CLAIMS

1. Method for identifying a plurality of passive transponders (6) located in a detection space of a reader (2) having at least a first antenna (Z) and a second antenna (Y) whose respective transmission-reception fields are not merged spatially and/or temporally, said method implementing an anti-collision protocol for each of the antennae during which each transponder identified by a given antenna is then set in a "silent" mode during the protocol associated with said antenna, characterised in that in each transponder there is provided a memory (34, 52) arranged to keep its information without the reader field being powered only for a certain period of time, and in that information is stored in said memory concerning the state of identification of the transponder concerned, in particular the fact of activating the "silent" mode, at least at the end of the anti-collision protocol associated with said first antenna, said information being kept by at least the transponders identified by said first antenna at least for an interval of time including the period of switching from the first antenna to said second antenna during which there is no supply field for the transponders.
2. Identification method according to claim 1, characterised in that said memory (34) is an analogue memory arranged to be able to keep binary information, said interval of time being of the order of ten seconds.
3. Identification method according to claim 2, characterised in that said analogue memory is formed by a capacitor integrated in the analogue part (14) of the electronic circuit (10) of the transponder (6).
4. Identification method according to claim 1, characterised in that said memory is an analogue memory, said interval of time being of the order of a minute to ten minutes.
5. Identification method according to claim 4, characterised in that said analogue memory includes a capacitor formed by a discrete element electrically connected to the analogue part (14) of the electronic circuit (10) of the transponder (6).
6. Identification method according to claim 1, wherein each of the transponders includes a logic circuit (16) and a power-on-reset circuit (POR) for said logic circuit, characterised in that said memory (52) is a digital memory, the latter being arranged in parallel with a capacitor such that, when the supply voltage of the transponder becomes lower than a given threshold, said power-on-reset circuit does not reset said logic memory but commands a switch to electrically insulate said logic memory and said loaded capacitor.

7. Method according to claim 6, characterised in that, at input, said logic memory can receive a control signal provided by said logic circuit to initialise said logic memory selectively.